

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

## University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

---

Campus News Archive

Campus News, Newsletters, and Events

---

11-20-2006

### The Human Face of Immigration

University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel\\_news](https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news)

---

#### Recommended Citation

University Relations, "The Human Face of Immigration" (2006). *Campus News Archive*. 884.  
[https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel\\_news/884](https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news/884)

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Campus News, Newsletters, and Events at University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. It has been accepted for inclusion in Campus News Archive by an authorized administrator of University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. For more information, please contact [skulann@morris.umn.edu](mailto:skulann@morris.umn.edu).

Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications  
Phone: 320-589-6414, [weberm@morris.umn.edu](mailto:weberm@morris.umn.edu)

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer  
Phone: 320-589-6068, [jrray@morris.umn.edu](mailto:jrray@morris.umn.edu)

## **The Human Face of Immigration**

*Summary: UMM faculty Steve Gross, assistant professor of history, and Solomon Gashaw, associate professor of sociology, were guest speakers during The National Issues Forum November 8 at the Morris Senior Citizens Community Center.*

(November 20, 2006)-University of Minnesota, Morris faculty Steve Gross, assistant professor of history, and Solomon Gashaw, associate professor of sociology, were guest speakers during The National Issues Forum November 8 at the Morris Senior Citizens Community Center.

Gross opened the session, on the topic of The Human Face of Immigration, with an explanation about the background of immigration in the United States. He stated that the greater number of people came looking for a new economic life or for more religious freedom than could be found in pre-1860s Europe. Gross pointed out that not all immigrants wish to become Americanized. Although we are more globalized than ever before, many groups do not desire assimilation, even though they accept economic change more quickly. Like those who came before them, they do hold to their core values tightly. All immigrants do not do well, of course, for reasons related to the context of their departure from their native country and the context of their arrival here that is, how they are received – we are all familiar with the distrust displayed toward “foreigners.”

Gashaw shared his personal history of immigration. A native of Ethiopia, he was forced by political factors to leave his country. He spoke of the financial and emotional difficulties facing immigrants, many of whom come with the hope that someday they can return to their country of origin. Government restrictions on visas in some cases occur because of a lottery and quotas. Gashaw said that many Africans are highly educated and qualified, hoping that coming to America will offer greater opportunities for their children.

The discussion by audience participants was vigorous and enlightening, but left many questions about immigration unanswered: Why are federal policies still so restrictive? Should we worry about the brain drain from abroad? Will the effect of immigration be to make rich nations richer and poor nations poorer? Can we help other nations become better? These and other questions were part of the next NIF held November 15. Tami Plank from the Stevens County Historical Museum focused on the history of immigration in Stevens County, while Morris attorney Deb Economou discussed the legal factors and impact of immigration here.

The National Issues Forums are free and open to the public. Further information is available by calling Elaine Simonds-Jaradat at (320) 589-4394 or Phyllis Gausman at (320) 589-2299.

Photo by Elaine Simonds-Jaradat: Solomon Gashaw, left, and Stephen Gross present during a recent Learning Unlimited session.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at [morris.umn.edu](http://morris.umn.edu) or call 888-866-3382.